

Senate Resolution 1131

By: Senator Beach of the 21st

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Affordability of Death Study Committee; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, the time following the loss of a loved one is one of the most difficult periods
3 in an individual's life; and

4 WHEREAS, it has been a decade since the General Assembly last reviewed state laws
5 governing cemetery practices and pricing; and

6 WHEREAS, with the cost of funerals, burial sites, cemetery plots, and vaults dramatically
7 escalating, cremation has become a growing trend for honoring loved ones after they have
8 passed on; and

9 WHEREAS, it is important, especially with these rising costs, that consumers understand
10 their rights when purchasing burial plots, vaults, and other burial and funeral merchandise
11 and that the contracts used and the associated fees are easy to comprehend; and

12 WHEREAS, consumers may be confused about how cremations are performed and how they
13 impact the communities they service, as well as what laws govern burial plot location and
14 usage of the associated lands; and

15 WHEREAS, the laws in Georgia concerning cemeteries and crematories are thought by some
16 to be conflicting in nature and to contain confusing provisions and undefined terms; and

17 WHEREAS, the General Assembly needs to study the current laws with a view toward
18 decreasing the potential for monopolistic practices and increasing opportunities for
19 competition; and

20 WHEREAS, there are many service areas relating to the loss of a loved one that need to be
21 examined to ensure that the best interests of the citizens of this state are being served.

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:

23 (1) **Creation of Senate study committee.** There is created the Senate Affordability of
24 Death Study Committee.

25 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of five members of the
26 Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate. The President shall designate a
27 member of the committee as chairperson of the committee.

28 (3) **Powers and duties.** The committee shall undertake a study of the conditions, needs,
29 issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action or
30 legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate.

31 (4) **Meetings.** The chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee. The committee
32 may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
33 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
34 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution.

35 (5) **Allowances and funding.** The legislative members of the committee shall receive
36 the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia
37 Annotated. The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any
38 member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized.
39 Funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds
40 appropriated to the Senate.

41 (6) **Report.**

42 (A) In the event the committee adopts any specific findings or recommendations that
43 include suggestions for proposed legislation, the chairperson shall file a report of the
44 same prior to the date of abolishment specified in this resolution, subject to
45 subparagraph (C) of this paragraph.

46 (B) In the event the committee adopts a report that does not include suggestions for
47 proposed legislation, the chairperson shall file the report, subject to subparagraph (C)
48 of this paragraph.

49 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of
50 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.
51 A report so approved shall be signed by the chairperson of the committee and filed with
52 the Secretary of the Senate.

53 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the chairperson may file with the Secretary
54 of the Senate a copy of the minutes of the meetings of the committee in lieu thereof.

55 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2016.